

DOCKET NO. VERTE.075C1**Serial No. 10/760,596****Response to Office Action dated Sept. 9, 2004****Amendments to the Claims**

The following listing of the claims is intended to replace all previous versions and/or listings of the claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An assembly for cleaning a thin, flat substrate, the assembly comprising:

a support for engaging a thin, flat substrate, the substrate having at least a first surface;

a liquid engaging the first surface;

at least a first source of sonic energy; and

at least a first sonic energy transmitter spaced from the substrate but in contact with the liquid;

wherein the first source applies sonic energy to the transmitter, and the transmitter transmits the sonic energy to the substrate first surface, and the transmitter attenuates the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the substrate at or near a ninety degree angle, wherein the transmitter includes one or more features selected from the group consisting of a substantially elliptical cross section, ~~an elongate channel, elongate cutouts that create a narrow edge lying directly adjacent the substrate first surface,~~ a roughened surface, and a plurality of bores.

Claim 2 (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the support engages a periphery of the substrate.

Claim 3 (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the support supports the substrate in a substantially horizontal orientation.

Claim 4 (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the support is rotatable.

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Claim 5 (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a first source of liquid, wherein the first source of liquid applies the liquid to the substrate first surface.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim 1 ~~wherein the first source of liquid~~ is further comprising a sprayer for supplying liquid to the substrate first surface.

Claim 7 (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first source of sonic energy comprises a transducer.

Claim 8 (Original) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein the transducer is coupled to the transmitter.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) ~~An The assembly of Claim 1~~ for cleaning a thin, flat substrate, the assembly comprising:

a support for engaging a thin, flat substrate, the substrate having at least a first surface;

a liquid engaging the first surface;

at least a first source of sonic energy;

at least a first sonic energy transmitter spaced from the substrate but in contact with the liquid;

wherein the first source applies sonic energy to the transmitter, and the transmitter transmits the sonic energy to the substrate first surface, and the transmitter attenuates the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the substrate at or near a ninety degree angle; and

wherein the first sonic energy transmitter comprises an elongate probe.

Claim 10 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein the probe extends generally parallel to the substrate first surface.

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Claim 11 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe directly adjacent to the substrate is configured to reduce a ratio of normal incident waves to shallow angle waves.

Claim 12 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe directly adjacent the substrate first surface includes a substantially elliptical cross section.

Claim 13 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe directly adjacent the substrate first surface includes an elongate channel.

Claim 14 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe includes elongate cutouts that create a narrow edge of the probe, the edge lying directly adjacent the substrate first surface.

Claim 15 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe directly adjacent the substrate first surface includes a roughened surface.

Claim 16 (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein a portion of the probe directly adjacent the substrate first surface includes a plurality of bores.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the support supports the substrate in a generally horizontal orientation;

further including means for applying a thin film of liquid to a first surface of the substrate.

Claim 18 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the transmitter transmits sonic energy to the substrate first surface through the liquid.

Claim 19 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the substrate first surface is a top surface.

Claim 20 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the substrate is a semiconductor wafer.

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Claim 21 (Original) The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the support is rotatable.

Claim 22 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the means for applying a thin film of liquid comprises a sprayer.

Claim 23 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the sonic energy transmitter comprises an elongate probe.

Claim 24 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the transmitter is formed of quartz, sapphire, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, quartz coated with silicon carbide or quartz coated with vitreous carbon.

Claim 25 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising a source of sonic energy coupled to the transmitter.

Claim 26 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the source of sonic energy is a transducer.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) Apparatus for cleaning a thin article having at least a first substantially planar surface, the apparatus comprising:

a support for the article;

a source of fluid for applying fluid to the first surface;

a transmitter configured to vibrate so as to transmit sonic energy through the fluid to the first surface to loosen particles on the first surface;

a transducer for vibrating the transmitter; and

a wall with an opening therein through which gas is introduced to flow in contact with the transducer;

wherein the transmitter includes one or more features selected from the group consisting of a substantially elliptical cross section, an elongate channel, elongate cutouts

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~~that create a narrow edge lying directly adjacent the substrate first surface,~~ a roughened surface, and a plurality of bores; and

the transmitter attenuates the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the article at or near a ninety degree angle.

Claim 28 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the article is supported in a substantially horizontal orientation.

Claim 29 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the article comprises a semiconductor wafer.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 27, ~~wherein the source of fluid comprises~~ further comprising a sprayer for supplying liquid to the substrate first surface.

Claim 31 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the wall forms a part of an enclosure, and the enclosure creates a space surrounding the transducer, and the opening introduces gas into the space.

Claim 32 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the gas purges the space.

Claim 33 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the gas cools the transducer.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning a thin, flat substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

supporting a thin, flat substrate, the substrate having at least a first surface;

applying a liquid to the first surface;

providing at least a first source of sonic energy;

providing at least a first sonic energy transmitter spaced from the substrate but in contact with the liquid, the transmitter including one or more features selected from the group consisting of a substantially elliptical cross section, ~~an elongate channel, elongate~~

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~~cutouts that create a narrow edge lying directly adjacent the substrate first surface, a~~
roughened surface, and a plurality of bores;

energizing the first source of sonic energy, thereby applying sonic energy to the transmitter;

transmitting sonic energy through the transmitter to the substrate first surface through the liquid; and

attenuating the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the substrate at or near a ninety degree angle.

Claim 35 (Original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of supporting the substrate in a substantially horizontal orientation.

Claim 36 (Original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of rotating the substrate as the liquid and sonic energy are applied to the substrate first surface.

Claim 37 (Original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of spraying the liquid onto the substrate first surface.

Claim 38 (Original) The method of Claim 34, further comprising the step of reducing a ratio of normal incident waves to shallow angle waves.

Claim 39 (New) A method of cleaning a thin, flat substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

supporting a thin, flat substrate, the substrate having at least a first surface;

applying a liquid to the first surface;

providing at least a first source of sonic energy;

providing at least a first sonic energy transmitter spaced from the substrate but in contact with the liquid, the transmitter comprising an elongate probe;

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energizing the first source of sonic energy, thereby applying sonic energy to the transmitter;

transmitting sonic energy through the transmitter to the substrate first surface through the liquid; and

attenuating the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the substrate at or near a ninety degree angle.

Claim 40 (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the first source applies sonic energy to the transmitter, and the transmitter transmits the sonic energy to the substrate first surface, and the transmitter attenuates the sonic energy to reduce the number of sonic waves that strike the substrate at or near a ninety degree angle, wherein the transmitter includes one or more features selected from the group consisting of a substantially elliptical cross section, an elongate channel, elongate cutouts that create a narrow edge lying directly adjacent the substrate first surface, a roughened surface, and a plurality of bores.